

# West Maui Watershed Plan, Maui, Hawai'i

**Plan Goal:** To improve the overall health of coral reefs, nearshore waters and watersheds, from the summit of Pu'u Kukui to the outer reef, incorporating holistic management aspects of traditional Hawaiian land, water, and natural resource management at the watershed or ahupua'a level. Building off the 1997 West Maui Watershed Owner's Manual, the plan will be driven by stakeholder participation and will:

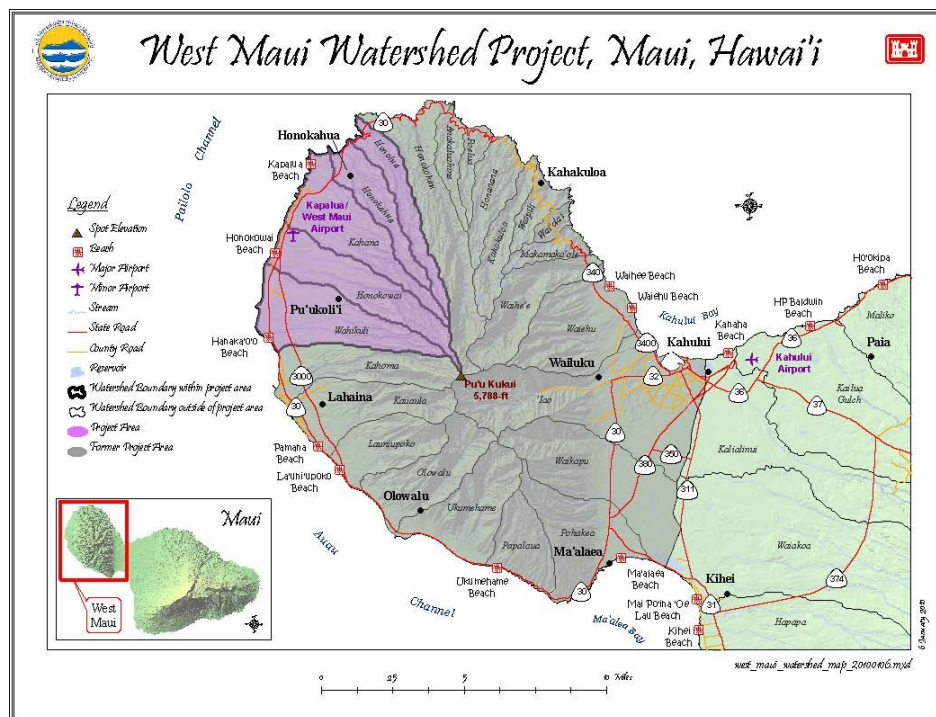
- Identify critical threats to the reefs and watershed health;
- Develop and evaluation solutions; and
- Implement recommended actions.

**Plan Outcomes:**

- Develop a planning process to mobilize and consolidate community involvement;
- Aggressively facilitate, collaborate and coordinate resources among county, state and federal agencies;
- Identify, prioritize, and closely define operational “on the ground” actions that the West Maui community and others can implement quickly; and,
- Ensure that the projects and lessons can be transferred to and replicated to watersheds in other island communities.

**Study Area:** The West Maui Watershed Project encompasses the area from Ka'anapali to Honolua on the island of Maui. The project area covers approximately 24,000 acres, includes five watersheds, 9 ahupua'a, and extensive coral reef habitat.

- Long-term coral reef monitoring studies have documented coral reef declines of approximately 50% in northern Ka'anapali and over 75% in Honolulu Bay.
- Approximately 6,000 acres of native forest, shrub, bogs, as well as wet and dry cliffs
- Nearly 8,250 acres of invasive species
- 80 acres of water, consistent with a combined stream length of 46 miles.

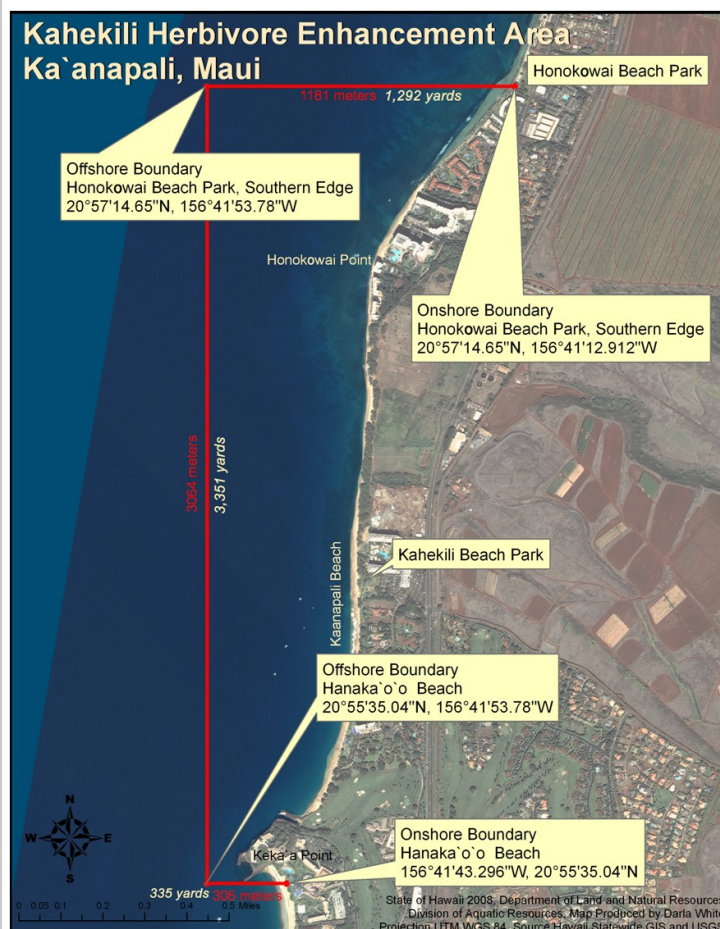


**Study Status:** The Hawaii Coral Reef Strategy identified the coral reef ecosystem along the region as a priority management area. In 2010, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed the reconnaissance study to define the study scope. The Cost Share Agreement is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2011. The US Coral Reef Task Force designated the West Maui Watershed Plan as the priority partnership in the Pacific in 2011. NOAA will be initiate the Wahikuli and Honokowai Watershed Assessment and stakeholder involvement in Fall 2011. The assessment will be expanded to the other areas within the larger plan..

- **Commission of Water Resource Management**
- **Department of Health, Clean Water**
- **Division of Aquatic Resources**
- **Division of Forestry and Wildlife**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
- Maui County

- Maui Land and Pine
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
- West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership
- West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District

The mission of the State of Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. The DAR manages the state's aquatic resources and ecosystems through programs in recreational and commercial fisheries and resource enhancement; aquatic resources protection, habitat enhancement, and education. DAR recognizes that an integrated management of the ecosystem requires a holistic approach, and is collaboratively working with partners to address and reduce land-based impacts and other potential threats.



**Permitted:** To fish for, injure, kill, possess, or remove any finfish or invertebrate except prohibited species indicated below.

**Prohibited:** To injure, kill, possess, or remove any of the following:



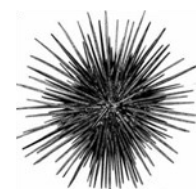
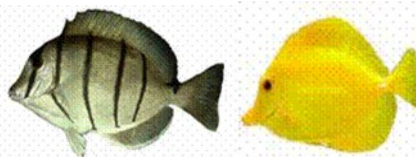
Rudderfishes (Nenu)



Parrotfishes (Uhu)



Surgeonfish (all 32 species)



Sea urchins

**Also Prohibited:** To feed or deliberately introduce any attractant, directly to or in the vicinity of any marine life, except while fishing for permitted marine life.

**Project s:** It is estimated that Hawaii's coral reefs contribute more than \$350 million dollars a year to the state's economy. The problem of coral to algal phase shifts is a concern for many Hawaii reef areas, particularly around heavily populated parts of the state. To address this threat DAR has recently implemented the Kahekili Herbivore Fishery Management Area (KHFMA) in the Northern Ka'anapali area. This new management effort aims to decrease the growing threat of invasive algae by prohibiting the harvest of surgeonfish, parrotfish, chubs, and sea urchins. These management activities are being assessed through a series of agency and community projects. Fish and habitat assessments are conducted within the KHFMA and at other similar locations around Maui and Lanai. Volunteer community projects include herbivore grazing studies, community-based makai watch programs, and a community run fishing survey program. These projects aim to involve local fishers and other community members with the end goal of increasing opportunities for community members to work directly with resource managers to conduct monitoring, outreach and voluntary compliance activities and to help the coral reefs flourish in West Maui.